

### **Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (Previously Presented) A cosmetic skin lightening composition, comprising 0.1 – 50% by weight of extracts of plants from the genera *Symplocos* and *Rubia*; the extract of *Symplocos* being selected from *Symplocos recemosa*, *Symplocos paniculata*, *Symplocos cochinchinensis* or mixtures thereof; the extract of *Rubia* being *Rubia cordifolia*.

Claim 2 (Original) The cosmetic skin lightening composition of claim 1, additionally comprising 0.1 – 10% by weight of a sunscreen.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) The cosmetic skin lightening composition of claim 1 ~~or~~ claim 2, further comprising 0.1 – 10% by weight of one or more skin whitening agents.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) The cosmetic skin lightening composition of ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the extract of *Symplocos* is *Symplocos recemosa*.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) The cosmetic skin lightening composition of ~~any of claims 2 to 4~~ claim 2, wherein the sunscreen is selected from 4-tertiary butyl-4'-methoxy dibenzoylmethane, 2-ethyl hexyl methoxy cinnamate, micronized titanium dioxide, or micronized zinc oxide.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended) The cosmetic skin lightening composition of ~~any of claims 3 to 5~~ claim 3, wherein the skin whitening agent is niacin, niacinamide or a precursor thereof.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) The cosmetic skin lightening composition of ~~any preceding~~  
~~claim~~claim 1 further comprising extracts of *Glycyrrhiza*, *Coriandum*, *Acorus* or mixtures  
thereof.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) The cosmetic skin lightening composition of ~~any preceding~~  
~~claim~~claim 1 wherein the *Symplocos* or *Rubia* is extracted from the bark of the plant.